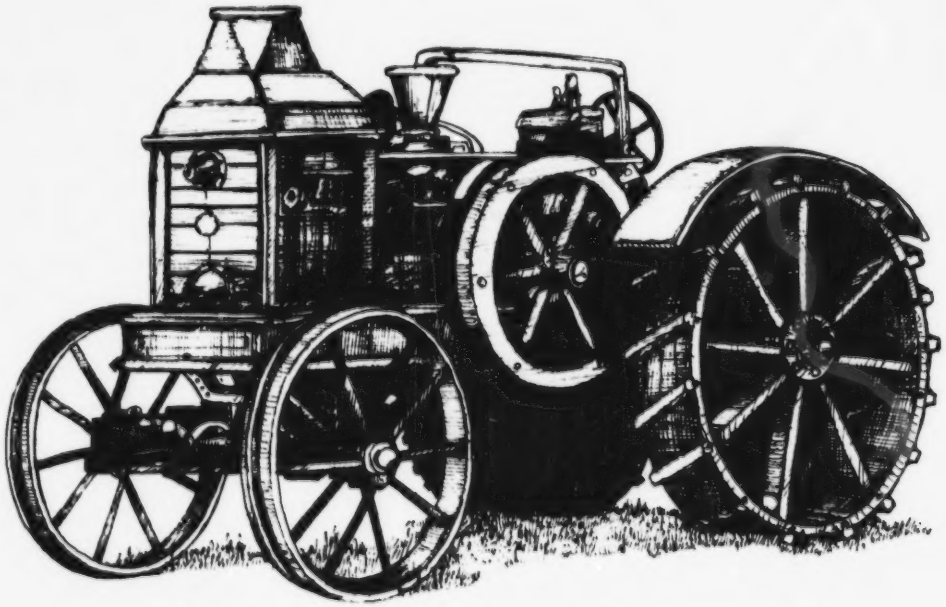
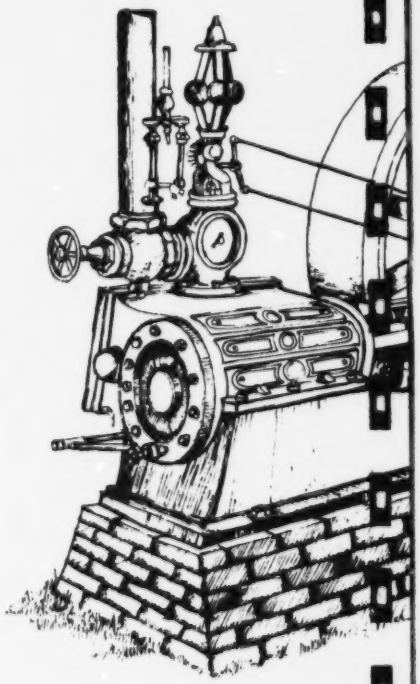
REYNOLDS-ALBERTA MUSEUM

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY TRANSPORTATION

Alberta
CULTURE





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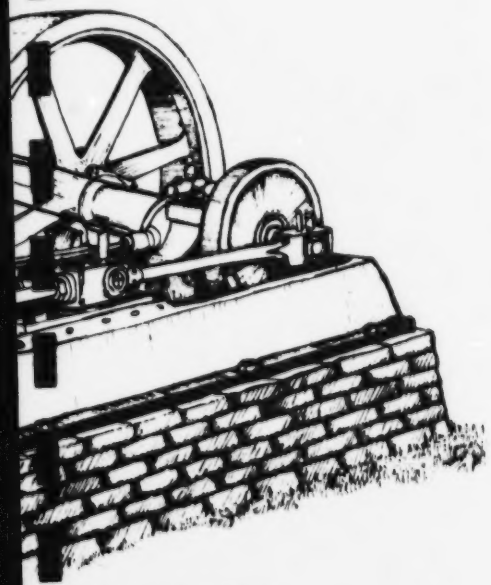
PRELIMINARY PLANNING PROPOSAL

January, 1983

The Reynolds-Alberta Museum provides for the preservation, study and exposition of the history of agriculture, industry and transportation in Alberta.



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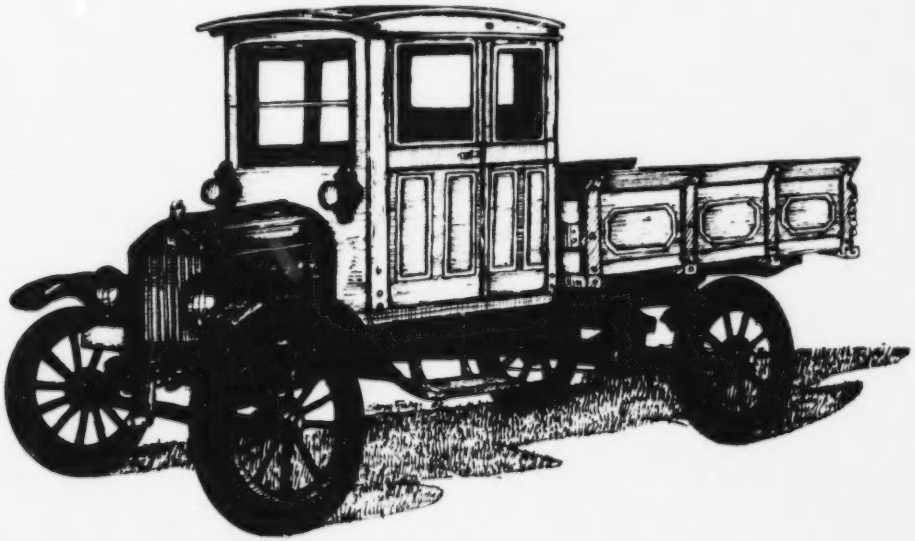

TRANSPORTATION

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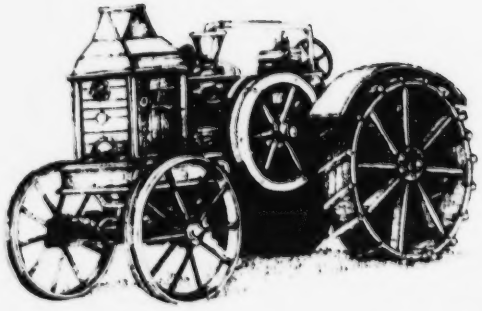
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On December 30, 1981 the Minister of Culture, Mary J. LeMessurier, accepted a donation of not less than 300 artifacts related to the history of agriculture, industry and transportation from Stanley G. Reynolds. The intent of the Minister is to preserve and interpret these artifacts in a major new museum in the Wetaskiwin area in order to provide a new historical resource for Albertans and their visitors.

It is intended that the facility will be the focus of a new program which will eventually offer a complete museum service including acquisition, restoration and conservation, exposition, demonstration, study and documentation of artifacts and associated materials related to the history of agriculture, industry and transportation in the province. The museum will become a centre for those seeking information about artifacts of this type.

The museum will require an area of 18,500 m^2 (200,000 sq. ft.) and a staff of 60 to meet the described program. The new museum will cooperate with other branches in Historical Resources, with museums and historical societies throughout the province and with representatives of the general public to achieve its goals.



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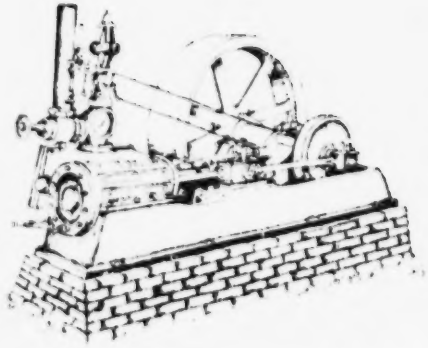

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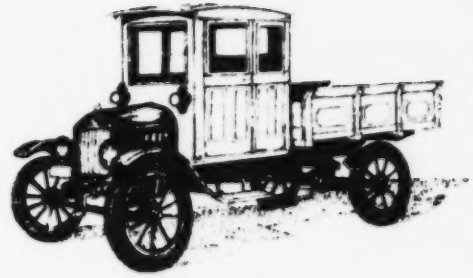

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2 PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION

2.1 Statement of Purpose

The Reynolds-Alberta Museum provides for the preservation, study and exposition of the history of agriculture, industry and transportation with particular but not exclusive reference to Alberta since its settlement by non-aboriginal peoples.

2.2 Reynolds Deed of Gift

On December 30, 1981, Mary J. LeMessurier, Minister of Culture, reached an agreement with Stanley G. Reynolds, Manager of the Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin, to select at least 300 major individual artifacts for preservation and interpretive use. The artifacts will be chosen to reflect the history of agriculture, industry and transportation in Alberta with special reference to the strengths of the Reynolds collection. In order that the government may wisely select those artifacts which best illustrate the history of these themes, the Minister of Culture has created the Reynolds Selection Advisory Committee to recommend artifacts for acquisition. The artifacts are being donated by Mr.

Reynolds on five separate dates:

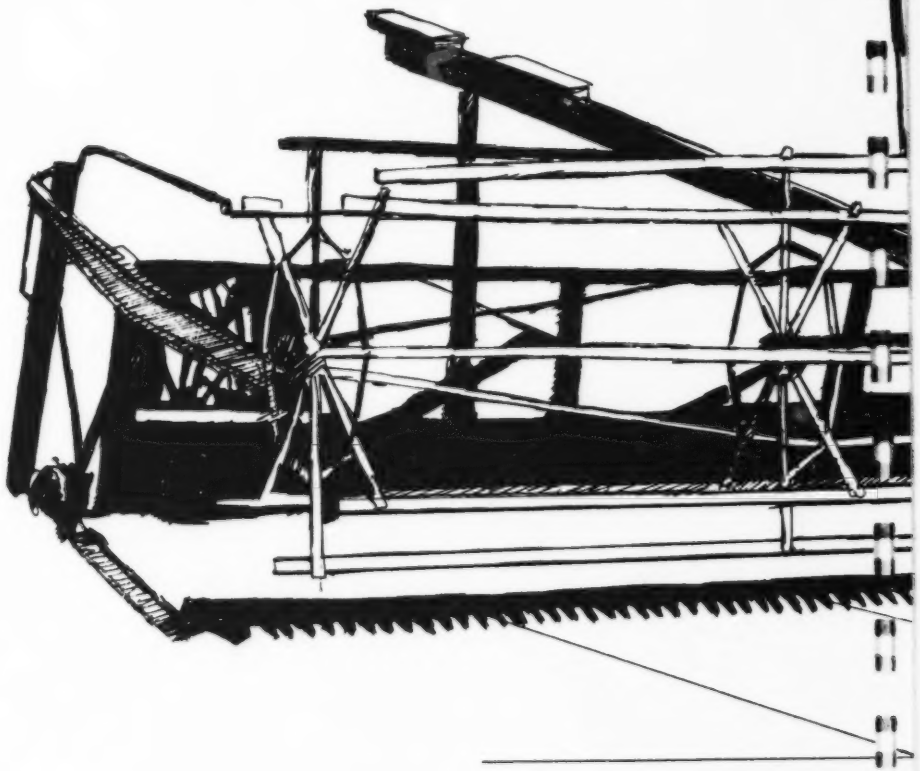
April 30, 1982
April 30, 1983
April 30, 1984
April 30, 1985
August 31, 1985

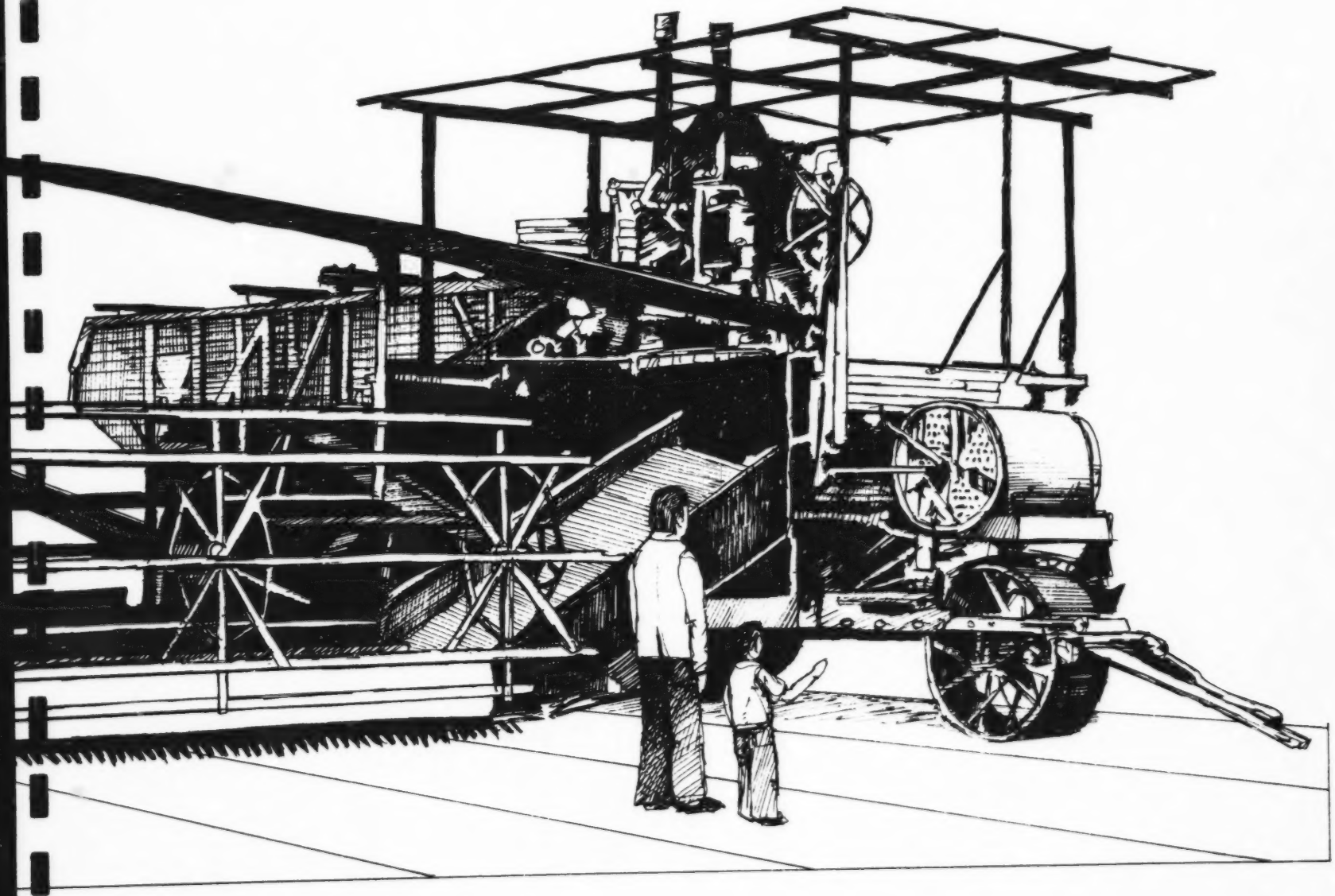
The Department of Culture will provide basic historical documentation and background information for the use of the committee and will prepare the nomination lists of artifacts which the committee will use in making its recommendation.

The Selection Committee at work.

2.3 What Will Be Exhibited

Once the artifacts have been accepted by the Minister, they will be stored and cared for in temporary accommodation. It is the intent of the Minister to exhibit these artifacts in a major new museum in the Wetaskiwin area and to use them as the beginning of the comprehensive collection which will eventually illustrate all facets of Alberta's agricultural, industrial and transportation heritage.





Bringing the past to the present.

2.4 Limitations In Other Public Museums

The Government of Alberta has recognized that a major museum is required to preserve the large artifacts which represent the economic development of Alberta. The Provincial Museum has limited storage and exhibit space for equipment of this size; the Glenbow Alberta Institute is unable to adequately display artifacts of this nature; and local and regional museums have been unable to provide adequate preservation for many large items, although some have made a valiant effort.

2.5 Background History of Reynolds Collection

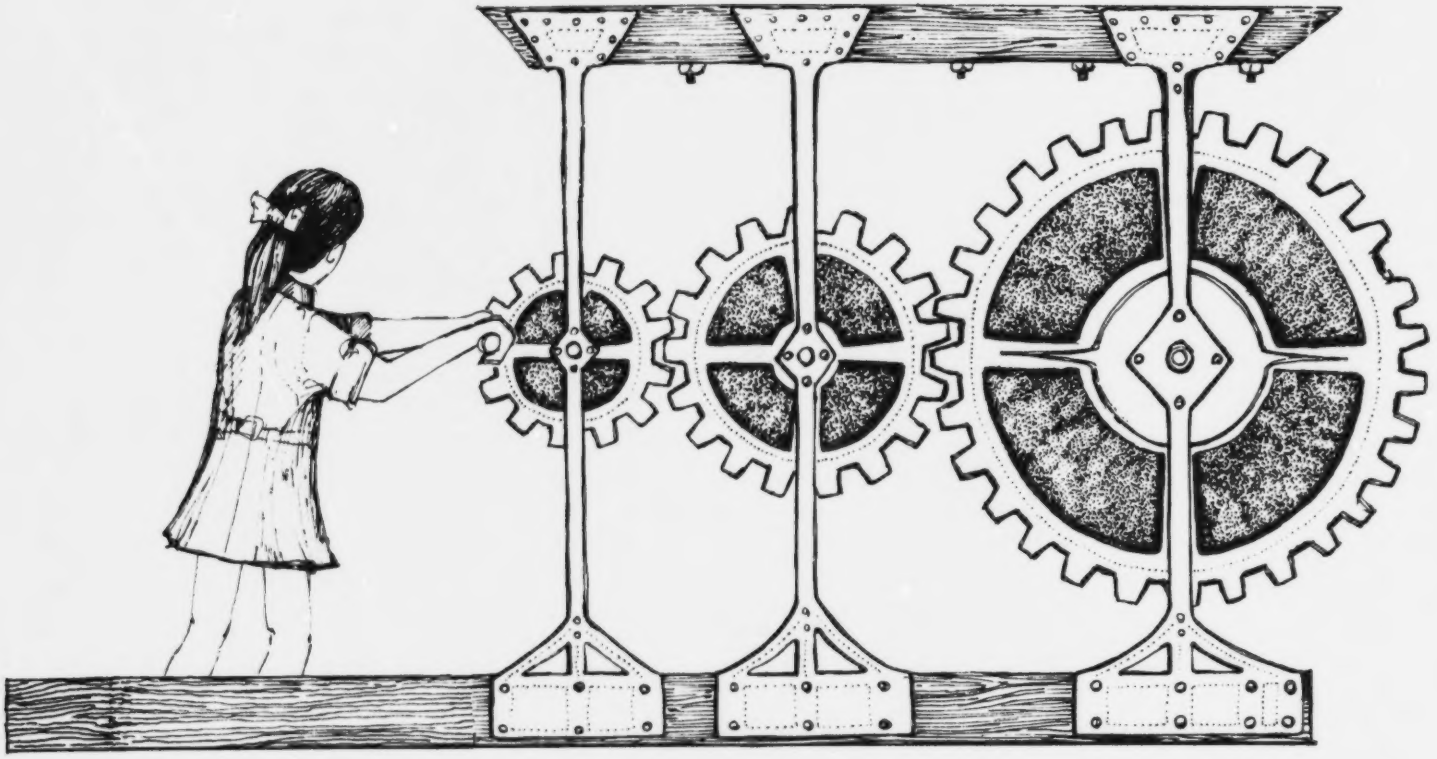
Since 1972, the government has been involved in negotiations with Mr. Reynolds concerning the preservation of his collection and the development of a museum whose initial core would be a selection from his collection. Initially, the size of the donation and conditions concerning its use hampered progress but agreement was finally reached in 1981. The free choice of at least 300 artifacts from the thousands in the collection would enable the government to select equipment which would begin to tell the story of agriculture, industry and transportation in Alberta.

2.6 Decision to Proceed

With the conclusion of the agreement, the Historical Resources Division of Alberta Culture was instructed to begin to plan a limited program to preserve and exhibit a minimum of 300 artifacts selected from the Reynolds collection and to project this initial development as a base for the future completion of a museum resource to preserve and interpret Alberta's agricultural, industrial and transportation heritage.

2.7 Requirements of the Citizens of Alberta

For many years, both individuals and groups have been requesting that the province embark on a program to preserve the moveable cultural property related to agriculture, industry and transportation. With the acquisition of the Reynolds collection and the commitment to begin a museum devoted to agriculture, industry and transportation, the government will have provided a base for the future.



Exhibits will explain technological principles.

2.8 The Education Potential

The new museum will provide increased understanding of the way in which the province's economic and technological development took place. Through a variety of innovative programs and projects, the museum will reach out to Albertans of all ages in all parts of the province.

2.9 The Tourist Potential

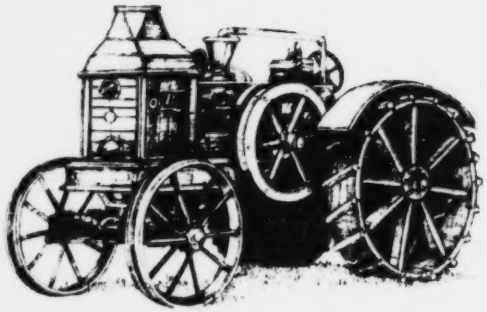
Displays of large artifacts, especially when associated with demonstration programs, have traditionally proved to be potent tourist attractions. Accordingly, the museum should prove to be a major impetus to the tourist trade in the Wetaskiwin area.

2.10 Decentralization Program

By committing itself to construct a major museum in the Wetaskiwin area, the Government of Alberta will once again be demonstrating its commitment to provide services throughout the province. An establishment of this magnitude should provide a sizeable stimulus to the economy of the Wetaskiwin area.

2.11 Museum Planning Advisory Committee

In order to receive citizen input into the planning of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum, the Minister of Culture has provided for the establishment of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum Planning Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations pertinent to the construction of an appropriate facility.



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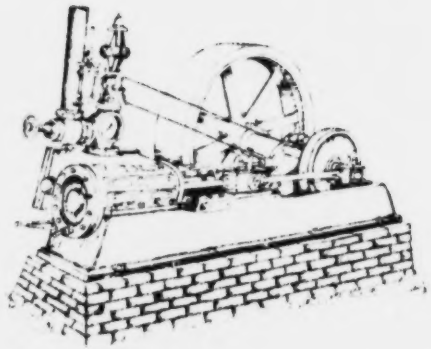

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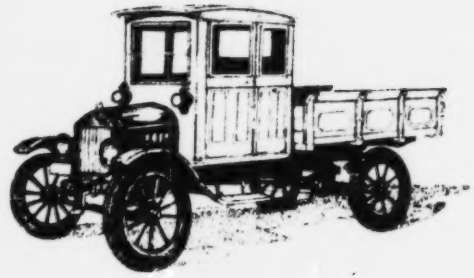


TRANSPORTATION

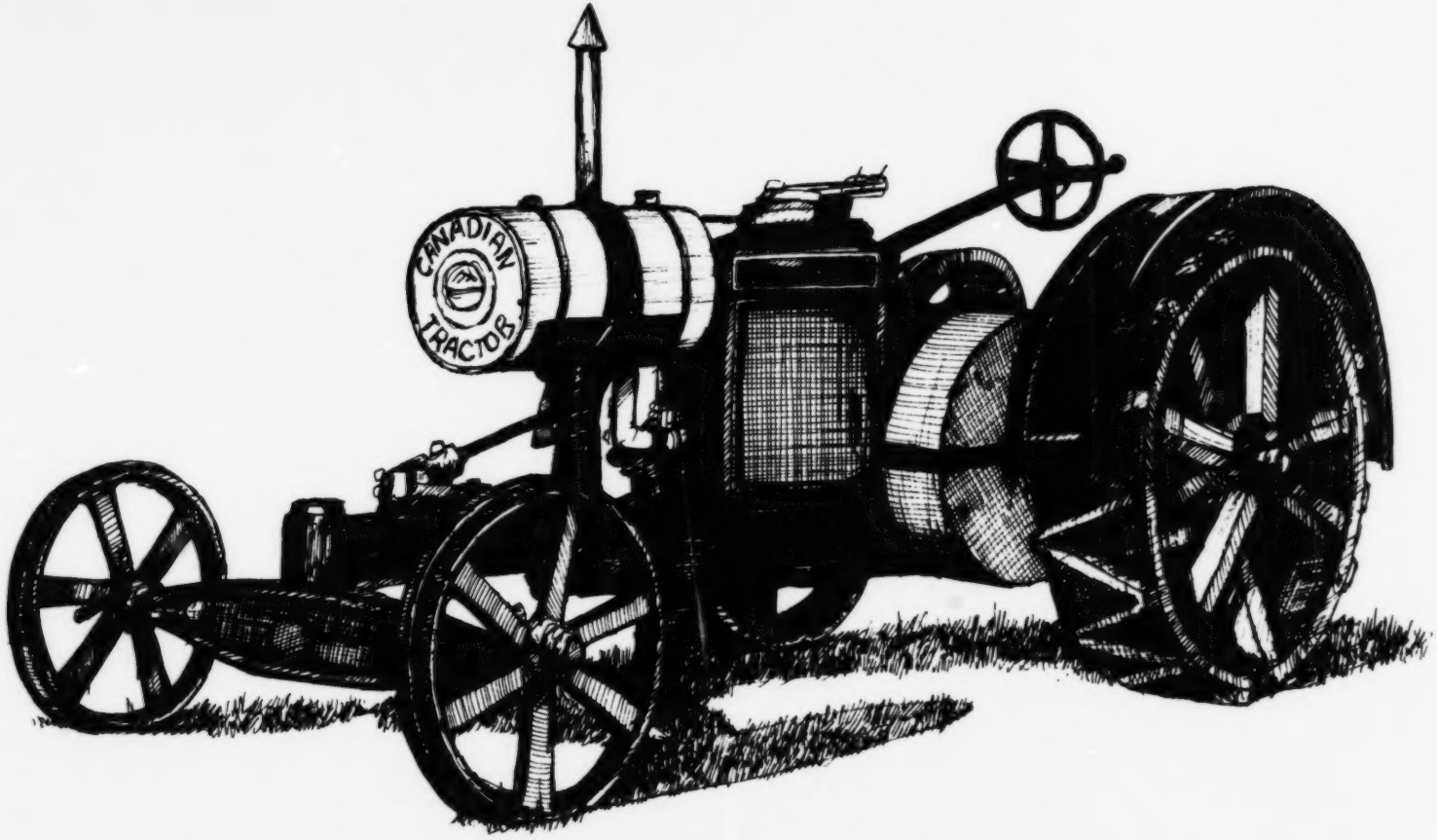
3 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program outlined below co-ordinates the purpose of the new museum with the terms of the Reynolds Deed of Gift while remaining within the parameters set by the provincial government. The program is designed to provide three major museum services: Preservation

Exposition

Information and Education

Initially using a minimum of 300 artifacts from the Reynolds collection the museum will bring various aspects of the history of agriculture, industry and transportation to within 30 years of the present. As time passes, the museum will accordingly increase its collections and services to adjust to its expanded mandate.



Manufactured at Medicine Hat, Alberta, 1920.

3.1 Preservation

One of the primary aims and obligations of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum will be to ensure the permanent preservation of a representative collection of large agricultural, industrial and transportation artifacts including an initial selection of at least 300 from the Reynolds collection. A preliminary review of his collections indicates that many major themes are not well represented. Some provision will need to be made in the future for selective acquisition of artifacts from other sources. In the initial phase of the museum's development, however, display and demonstration requirements may need to be met with the help of artifacts borrowed from other collections. As the museum collections will serve as the basis for all aspects of its programs, the bases for selection and acquisition are central to the museum's purpose. In order to ensure that the selection may be carried out with some historical perspective, the museum will adopt a policy of not acquiring artifacts that are less than 30 years old. For the initial selection period, this would place the limit at no later than 1955. Future acquisitions may include newer artifacts where careful research and evaluation indicate their value to the museum.

The majority of the artifacts selected for the museum collection will be chosen as

typical examples of past technologies and will be preserved and presented to the public as fully operational artifacts, maintained for careful use in demonstration programs. Experience in many major museums with similar collections has demonstrated that this type of artifact is best conserved in this way.

Some artifacts, especially those which are in excellent "last-use" condition, and others which have special or unique features will have severely limited use. They will be presented to the public as static exhibits under carefully controlled conditions in order to protect their authentic historical character.

3.2 Exposition

Presentation of the collection will be achieved in a variety of ways designed to expose it to the public as fully as possible. The principal modes will include:

Interpretive Exhibits

Visible Storage

Demonstrations and Working Exhibits

Open Restoration and Maintenance Shops

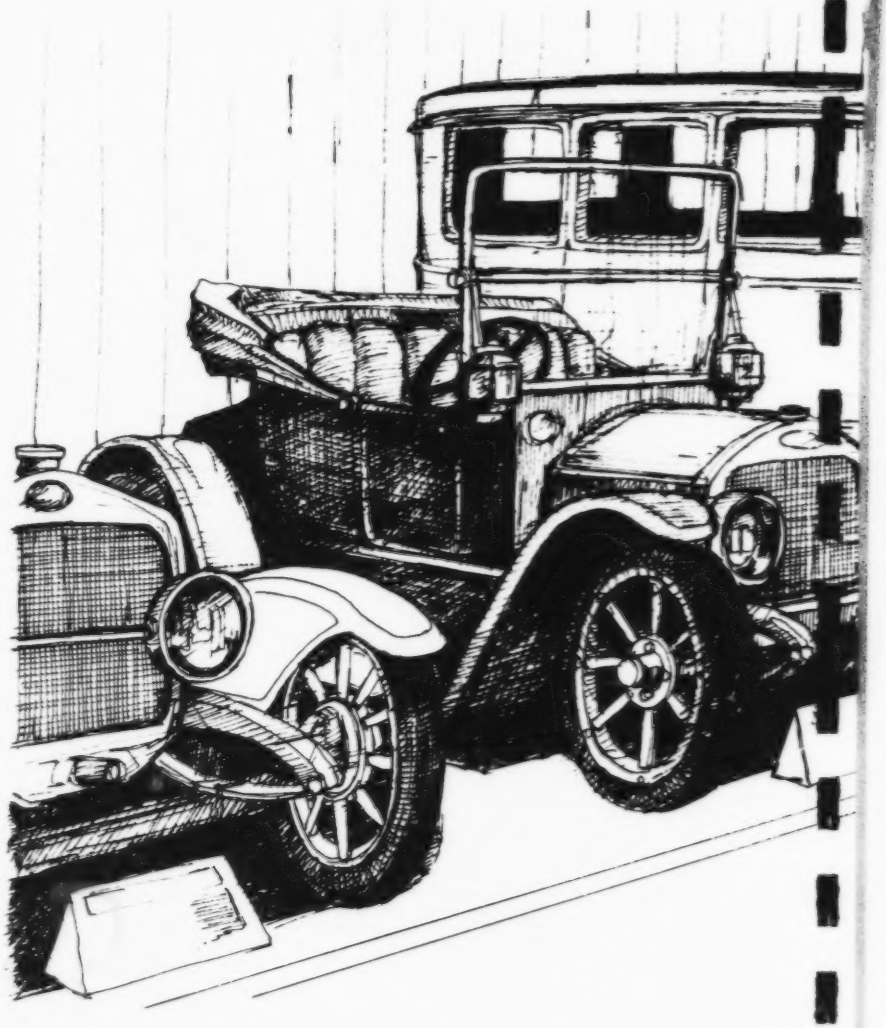
The basic philosophy to be followed in making the collection available to the public is that all parts of the collection will be open to view and utilized in interpretation and education programs. All of the selected artifacts will be cleaned and stabilized before being placed in visible storage. Artifacts selected for more sophisticated interpretive exhibits or demonstrations will be prepared and restored in the shops which will be open for public viewing, thus allowing the entire process of museum artifact care to be part of the public program.

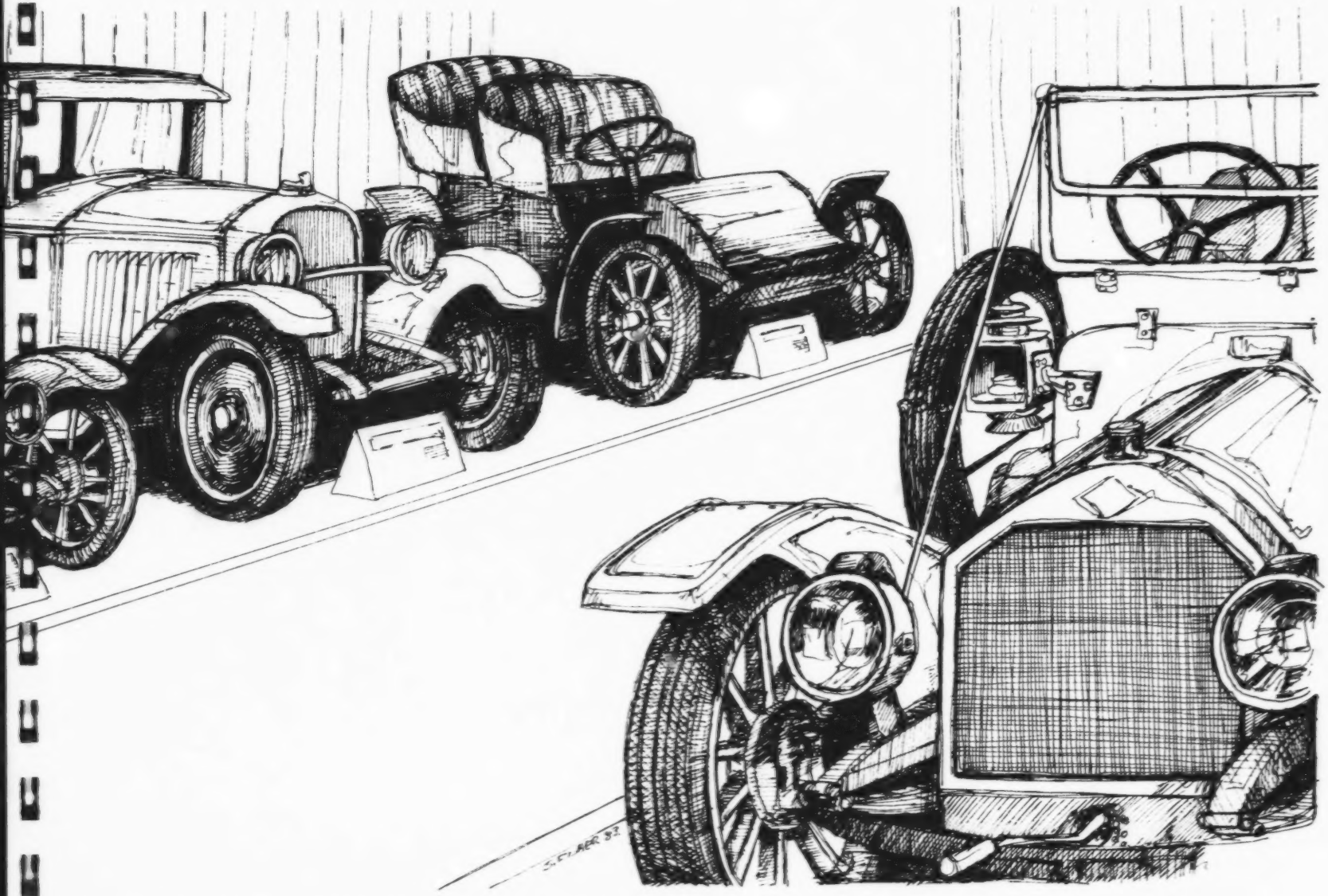
i Interpretive Exhibits: As time and resources permit, it is planned to allocate the majority of the exhibit area to well-researched and imaginatively planned interpretive and educational displays. The artifacts will be presented to the public in their historical and technological contexts with adequate explanation through labels, audio-visual display and other instructive media.

Artifacts will be displayed in historical context.

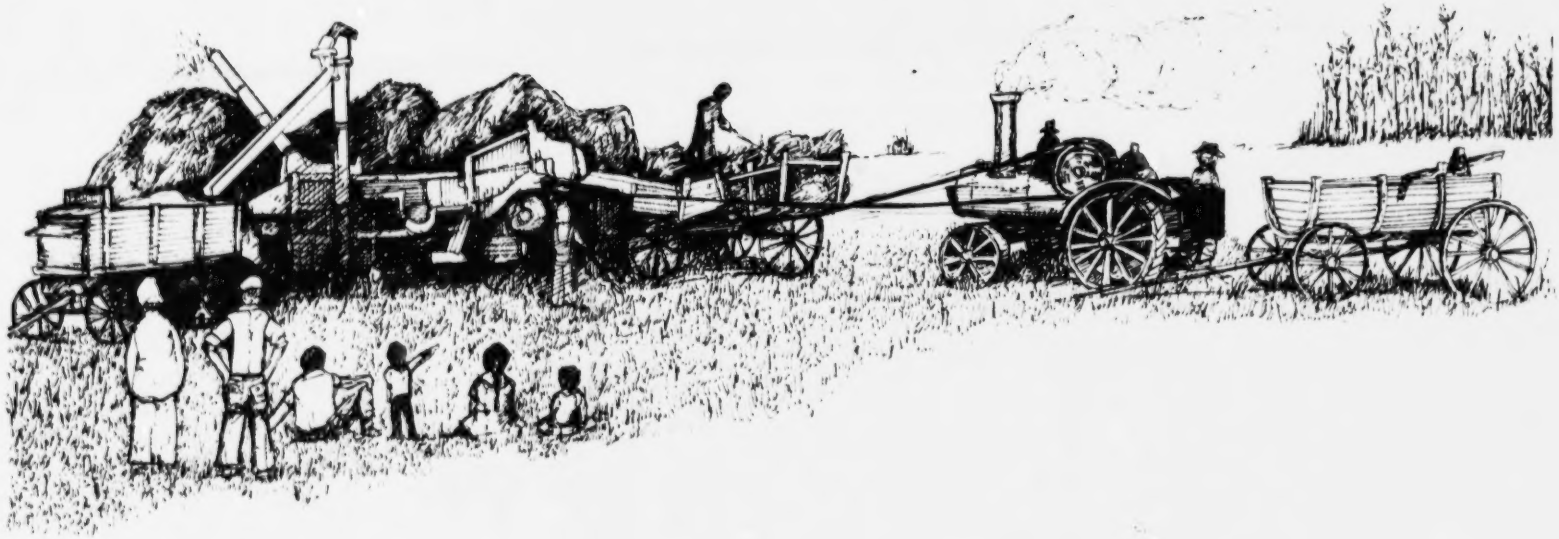
ii Visible Storage: Museum collections not used in the initial interpretive exhibits will be presented to the public in what is usually termed "visible storage" in the museum profession. These collections will be organized by subjects or themes and will have basic identifying labels.

In the early years of museum operation, it is expected that the majority of the collection will be housed in this way. As further interpretive displays are developed and as individual artifacts are restored, the area allocated to visible storage will decline, but it will doubtless always remain a significant element in the museum's collection management and exposition programs.





Visible storage will enable visitors to see more.



Demonstrations show artifacts in action.

iii Demonstrations and Working Exhibits: It is important that the museum preserve and exhibit not only the artifacts in its collection but also the functions which these artifacts performed. In order to achieve this end, restored artifacts maintained in full working order will be utilized year-round in demonstration programs on the museum grounds, and, where practical, within the museum itself.

It is anticipated that there will be both a permanent outdoor demonstration area adjacent to the museum and a series of remote locations on the museum grounds for activities which require larger space, such as the planting and cutting of agricultural crops. Some permanent exhibits may be developed which involve working machinery so that it might be presented to the public in a more understandable and dramatic fashion. Although such programs will be generally organized and manned by museum staff, there is an opportunity here to take advantage of the assistance of volunteers organized through a "Friends of the Museum" society.

iv Restoration and Maintenance Shops: In many museums, the restoration, maintenance and artifact care processes are organized as part of the institution's preservation program. In the Reynolds-Alberta Museum, these processes will, as much as possible, be integrated into the public interpretation program. Therefore, restoration, cleanup and maintenance shops will be open to the public on a regular basis subject to industrial safety regulations and considerations. Few items in the collection will be fully restored in the early years of museum operation and this will give the visitors an opportunity to share in the exciting experience of building a museum collection. All of the collection will be subject to continuing maintenance and the process involved will constitute an interesting and valuable part of the museum's exposition programs.

Restoration will be on view to visitors.

3.3 Information and Education

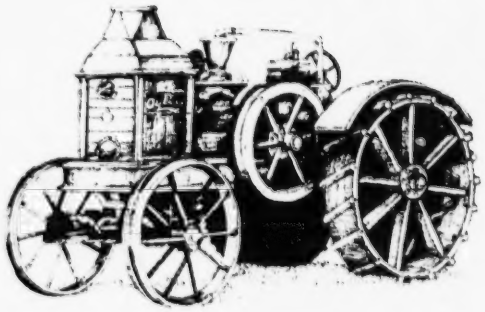
The third major service which the museum will offer is the provision of a wide range of information and educational programs. This service will provide materials and expertise to satisfy a variety of interest groups from school children to hobbyists, from the casual visitor to the scholar.

i Information Centre: A library containing a wide variety of information sources including books, magazines, catalogues, manuals, pictures and microform materials will provide services to both staff and museum visitors. This large collection of research data will have, as its central focus, the history of agriculture, industry and transportation. It will become a standard source of knowledge about these subjects for both hobbyists and serious students.

ii Publications: It is planned to develop a broadly based publications program designed to provide both general and specialized audiences with information about the museum programs, collections and research results. This will include a regular published newsletter, fact sheets, brochures, guide books and catalogues and occasional monographic publications.

iii Education Programs: Under the guidance of a professional museum educator, programs will be carried out by museum staff, visiting experts and members of the "Friends of the Museum" society. Education programs will include the organization of guided tours and self-guiding materials, instructional materials, films, special demonstrations and lectures, teaching kits and travelling exhibits, etc.

iv Museum Store: The museum store will be regarded as an important link in the information services program. It will provide an opportunity for visitors to purchase literature, museum quality replicas, models and souvenirs which will function as valid keepsakes and reminders of the museum as well as serving as the basis for enhancing the visitors' interest and knowledge. A main responsibility will be the marketing of publications, photographs, prints and other materials developed by the museum for general sale. The provision of photocopies and prints of research materials in the information centre will also be administered through the museum store.



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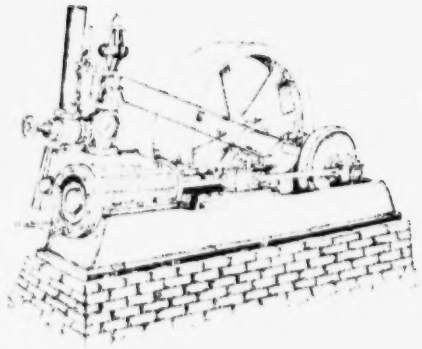

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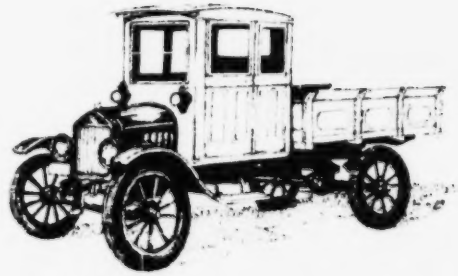


TRANSPORTATION

4 STAFFING AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Staff Organization

Professional and support staff will be required to carry out the programs outlined in this proposal.

Artifact preservation and restoration will require the services of many specialized tradesmen such as mechanics, wheelwrights, blacksmiths and coachmakers. In addition, curators trained in museum techniques will be needed to ensure that the historical value of the artifacts saved for the museum does not deteriorate and that the information associated with each artifact is recorded.

The research and information component of the museum's program will require historians to provide background advice and knowledge which will be used in the museum's educational programs. Skilled educators and a librarian will help to make the information available to the public.

Exhibit designers will plan interpretive displays while guides and gallery attendants not only provide information to visitors but also help to protect the collection.

All members of the staff will be encouraged to participate in the delivery of programs to the public.

4.2 Facility

	sq. ft.	m^2
i Collections Care and Preservation		
includes parts storage, shops and facilities not open to the public, such as exhibit production, paint shop, etc.	10,000	930
shops and care facilities which are also part of the public exposition	20,000	1,860
ii Exhibition		
includes interpretive exhibits, visible storage, feature exhibit area	125,000	11,600
iii External Demonstration Area		
adjacent to building, internal view, access and staging area	5,000	460
iv Information Centre		
library reading room, audio-visual room, and library stacks	5,000	460
v Public Facilities		
lobby and lounge, lunchroom, educational program facilities, etc.	12,000	1,120
vi Offices and Staff Facilities	8,000	750
vii Building Services	15,000	1,400
TOTAL	198,000	18,580

5 INTERRELATIONSHIPS WITHIN ALBERTA CULTURE

5.1 Planning Period

Initial funding for the Reynolds-Alberta Museum provides for the preservation and exposition of a minimum of 300 artifacts from the Reynolds collection. In order to achieve effective exposition of the chosen themes by the opening in 1987, it may be necessary to borrow large artifacts from other collections in the Ministry of Culture.

5.2 Relationship to the Provincial Museum

The Provincial Museum in Edmonton presently provides a museum service covering all aspects of Alberta's natural and human history. In a similar manner to the agreement with the Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, the future relationship between the Provincial Museum and the Reynolds-Alberta Museum should ensure a continuing presence of the history of agriculture, industry and transportation at the Provincial Museum while transferring the major responsibility in these three subject areas to the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. Presently, much of the industrial history collection at the Provincial Museum is stored in a rented warehouse. When adequate facilities can be acquired at the Reynolds-

Alberta Museum, it is recommended that these collections be transferred.

It is assumed that the conservation expertise will remain at the Provincial Museum and will provide an advisory service to the Reynolds-Alberta Museum on request. The restoration program at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum will provide services to the Provincial Museum at their request.

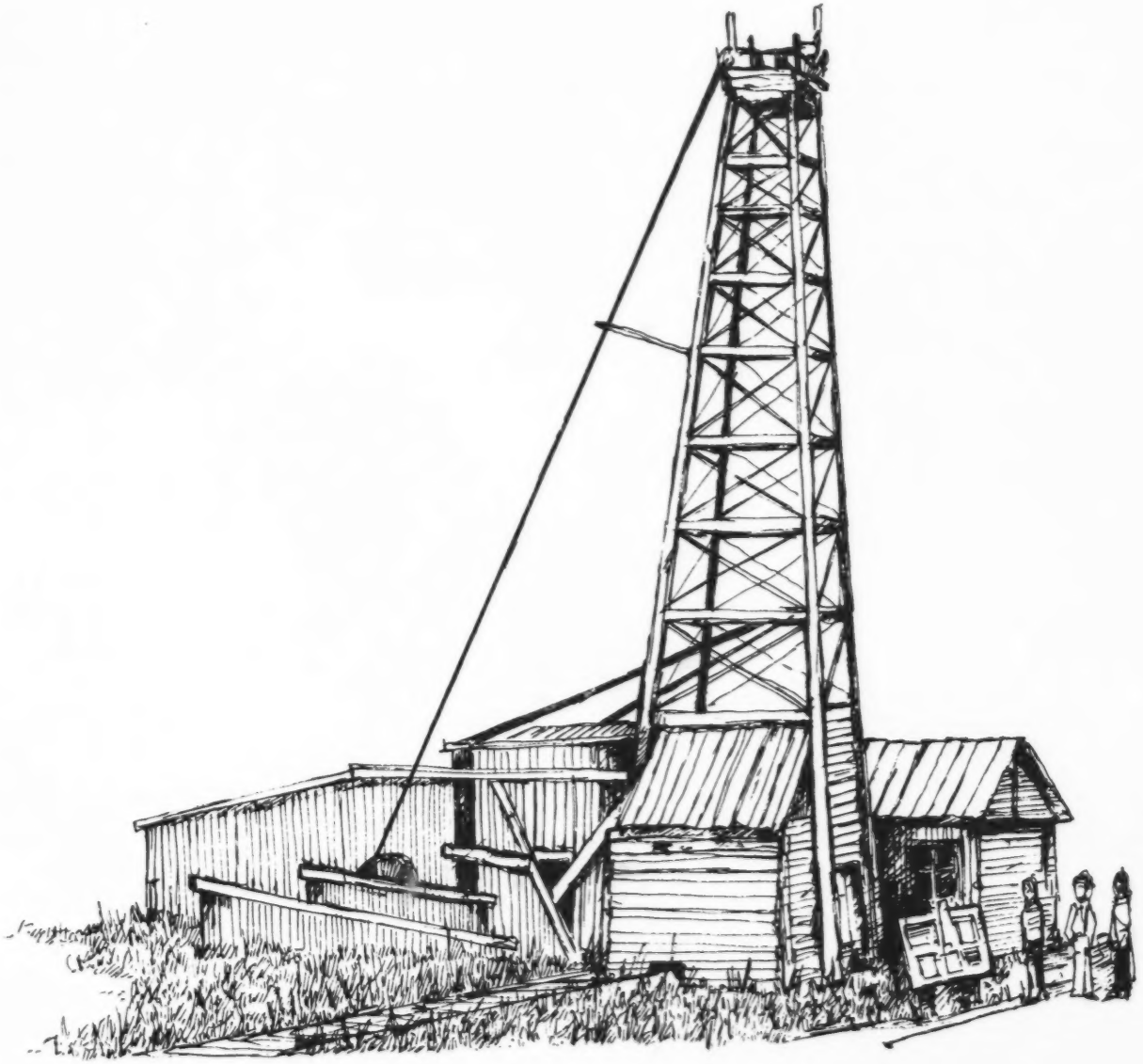
The Strathcona Science Centre which is operated by the Provincial Museum is primarily concerned with science and modern technology. The Reynolds-Alberta Museum's emphasis on the preservation of materials related to agriculture, industry and transportation in their historical and technological context provides a complementary rather than a conflicting role.

5.3 Relationship to Historic Sites

The Reynolds-Alberta Museum is artifact oriented while the Historic Sites Service is site oriented. The Reynolds-Alberta Museum will be able to provide agricultural, industrial and transportation artifact acquisition, restoration and maintenance services to meet Historic Sites Service needs if provided with appropriate storage facilities and funding. It may also be appropriate for the new museum to provide a full range of services to interpretive centres which illustrate agriculture, industrial and transportation history in a non-site specific setting.

5.4 Relationship to Provincial Archives and Historical Resources Library System

The library component of the Information Centre at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum expects to participate as a branch library within the Historical Resources Library System. In addition, it will actively promote the preservation of both published and unpublished material related to its purpose. When such materials are regarded as provincially significant, they will be turned over to the Provincial Archives for preservation. Copies of these materials will be retained in the Information Centre for both public and museum staff use. It is also anticipated that copies of materials important to the purpose of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum but presently held in the Provincial Archives will be made available to the new museum.



Outdoor exhibits will provide another dimension.

6 PROJECTED EXTENSION OF SERVICES

Once the initial terms of the Reynolds Deed of Gift are completed, additional provisions will need to be made to fully achieve the museum's statement of purpose. A collection based upon a selection from the Reynolds artifacts will not adequately provide for the preservation, study and exposition of all aspects of the history of agriculture, industry and transportation in Alberta. In order to allow a full representation of such major themes as railroad history, the oil and gas industry, and irrigation agriculture, the acquisition of artifacts from outside sources should begin as quickly as possible. Major collections of large artifacts in the possession of the Provincial Museum and the Glenbow-Alberta Institute should become the responsibility of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. Selective acquisition from private sources will also be required to meet the purpose of the museum. In order to accommodate these necessary components, a future expansion of the described project will be required.

It is also important to note that the museum has a built-in need for future expansion. Since the present plan brings the historical story up to ca. 1955, future expansion will be required as the need to preserve and interpret Alberta's more recent history expands. It is estimated that an additional 20% expansion to facilities and budget will be required

every 20 years in order to keep the museum's programs up to date.

In future, other potential methods of meeting the museum's purpose will need to be considered. Warehousing of part of the museum's collection may become necessary. Exhibits on the museum site may be appropriate in certain instances. Decentralization of certain subjects, perhaps in co-operation with other agencies, would enhance the program throughout the province. Discussions will need to be held with bodies such as the Historic Sites Service, Municipal Museums, Societies and Organizations, and related agencies and businesses in the private sector in order to establish a co-operative approach to the development of special projects throughout the province.

6.1 Future Education and Training Role

The Reynolds-Alberta Museum has an obligation to encourage and provide educational programs which will increase the knowledge and skills of individuals interested in the purpose of the museum. To meet this end, training courses should be offered in the restoration, maintenance and use of large historical artifacts. Local and regional museums and the Alberta Museums Association have identified this as a training need.

In addition, seminars and extension courses should be offered in co-operation with appropriate educational institutions such as Red Deer College, University of Alberta, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Olds College, etc.

The museum should become a meeting place for people from all walks of life who have an interest in the history of agriculture, industry and transportation. In order to facilitate this goal, conferences, meetings and special events should be promoted at the museum.

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL